GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3905
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2002
PRODUCTION OF NEWSPRINT
PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

:

(a) the installed capacity of newsprint in the country and the extent to which the demand is met through the production of newsprint indigenously;

(b) the price of indigenously produced newsprint in comparison to the imported one;

(c) the quality of newsprint imported during the last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken to make the country self-sufficient in the production of newsprint at competitive price?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) Presently there are 65 mills (4 in Central Public Sector, 2 in State Public Sector and 59 in Private Sector) with a total installed capacity of 12.25 lakh tonnes as mills producing newsprint. The total demand of newsprint in the country is to the tune of nearly 10 lakh MT. The demand can be met in full by indigenous Mills by increasing the capacity utilization. Actual indigenous production of newsprint for the last two years was as follows:-

Year	Production
2000-2001	6.34 MT
2001-2002	6.20 MT

(b) According to information available in this Department, the price of indigenous and imported newsprint during the last two years was as under:-

Year	Domestic Price	Imported Price
2000-2001	Rs.24000-30450 (Per MT)	US$ 650-700 Per MT
2001-2002	Rs.20000-22000 (Per MT)	US$ 405-450 Per MT

(c) The quantity of imported newsprint during the last two years was as under:-

Year	Quantity
2000-2001	4.42 lakh MT
2001-2002 (upto July,2002)	1.72 lakh MT

(d) Government has taken a number of steps to increase the availability of newsprint, which include:-

(i) Newsprint Industry has been delicensed subject to locational policy.

(ii) There is no Customs Duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint.

(iii) Paper mills, producing paper confirming to standards prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards for newsprint, are placed is Schedule-I to Newsprint Control Order, 1962 declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint and newsprint manufactured by such mills has been exempted from excise duty.